

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01

ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-01 IO-10 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /153 W

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P R 081641Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7904

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS CARACAS 2639

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG EINV VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ' REMARKS ON RETURN FROM OPEC SUMMIT

REF: CARACAS 2619

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ RETURNED TO VENEZUELA FROM ALGERIA EARLY IN THE EVENING OF MARCH 7. THIS WAS HIS SECOND FOREIGN TRIP SINCE ASSUMING UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICE AND A MAJOR EFFORT WAS MADE TO ORGANIZE A LARGE AIRPORT

TURNOUT TO WELCOME HIM HOME. GOVERNMENT WORKERS WERE RELEASED IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON AND PROVIDED BUS TRANSPORTATION TO THE AIRPORT. THE HIGHWAY TO THE AIRPORT WAS TOLL-FREE FOR THE DAY. THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY WAS CARRIED NATIONWIDE ON ALL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS. A MILITARY REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED. THE ADMINISTRATION TURNED OUT IN FULL FORCE, WITH ACTING PRESIDENT LEPAGE GIVING THE WELCOME HOME SPEECH, SUPPORTED BY REMARKS FROM LABOR LEADERS AND OTHERS. MOST OF THE SEVERAL THOUSAND PERSONS WHO WENT TO THE AIRPORT REMAINED THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM, WHICH LASTED MORE THAN ONE HOUR.

2. PEREZ'S SPEECH, AS WELL AS MOST OF THE REPORTING ON THE OPEC SUMMIT CONFERENCE OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, WAS VERY BASIC TAILORED TO THE UNINFORMED VENEZUELAN CITIZEN. THE TONE OF THE SPEECH WAS CONCILIATORY AND POSITIVE WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS BETWEEN PRODUCER AND CONSUMER NATIONS. HIS FIRST WORDS WERE THAT HE "DID NOT BRING A BATTLE PLAN, BUT A MESSAGE OF PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION."

3. PEREZ STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OPEC SUMMIT IN BRINGING TOGETHER COUNTRIES FROM ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA. HE STATED THAT "UNTIL NOW THE INSTRUMENTS OF NEGOTIATION HAVE ONLY BEEN IN THE HANDS OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, WHICH HAD THE RAW MATERIALS AND LABOR OF THE WEAK COUNTRIES. NO TRUE EQUILIBRIUM EXISTED (BETWEEN DCs AND LDCs). NOW, A REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE HAS OCCURRED. ONE GROUP OF COUNTRIES WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND ANOTHER GROUP WITH ENERGY (RESOURCES) AS THEIR INSTRUMENT TO NEGOTIATE EQUILIBRIUM AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE." IN DESCRIBING THE SUMMIT MEETING, PEREZ SAID THAT WHAT GAVE HIM THE GREATEST SATISFACTION WAS THE PRESENCE OF A COMMISSION FROM THE DAKAR CONFERENCE ON RAW MATERIALS. ALTHOUGH DAKAR CONFERENCE REPRESENTED COUNTRIES WITHOUT OIL, WHOSE ECONOMIES WERE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE HIGH COST OF OIL THEY HAVE TO BUY, THEY CAME TO DECLARE THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH OPEC.

4. SEVERAL STATEMENTS HE MADE SHOULD BE NOTED. HE SAID THAT IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, ALGERIA AND VENEZUELA HAVE ACCEPTED THE FRENCH INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE APRIL 7 PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE. THESE COUNTRIES, ALONG WITH INDIA, ZAIRE AND BRAZIL, WILL NOT AGREE TO DISCUSS ONLY PETROLEUM.

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INSTEAD THEY WANT TO DISCUSS OTHER RAW MATERIALS, CAPITAL GOOD AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. SEPARATELY, FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOBAR SALOM GAVE AN IN-FLIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE TO THE VENEZUELAN REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT PEREZ, IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE PARIS MEETING WAS A POSSIBILITY, NOT A REALITY, ALLUDING TO LACK OF AGREEMENT ON THEME OF MEETING, NUMBER AND IDENTIFY OF INVITEES AND MECHANICS OF CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS,

FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE PARIS MEETING TAKE PLACE, AND ANTICIPATED SEVERAL TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR THE PARIS EVETN.

5. PEREZ SINGLED OUT THE SHAH OF IRAN'S PERFORMANCE AT THE SUMMIT FOR SPECIAL COMMENT. THE SHAH'S "SERIOUS, INTELLIGENT AND CAPABLE EXPOSITION" OF THE CONVERSATION THEME FOR OIL AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RESOURCE, WAS PRAISED. PEREZ REMINDED THE AUDIENCE THAT THE SHAH WILL VISIT VENEZUELA IN MAY 1975.

6. ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, PRESIDENT PEREZ ANNOUNCED THAT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS HE WILL MAKE CONTACTS WITH THE OTHER VENEZUELAN POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH ARE INDISPENSIBLE PRIOR TO PRESENTING THE OIL NATIONALIZATION BILL TO CONGRESS. HE MENTIONED THE OPPOSITION

POLITICAL PARTY LEADER WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM TO ALGERIA, AND SAID THAT TOGETHER THEY PRESENTED ONE VOICE FOR VENEZUELA BEFORE THE SUMMIT. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PEREZ HAS INCREASED HIS DOMESTIC STATURE THROUGH HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE OPEC SUMMIT.
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